

2.2.16 LANDS AND REALTY

The plan area encompasses approximately 1.2 million acres of public land. BLM is required to retain these lands in public ownership (NCA ACT § 6(a)).

There are an additional 17,776 acres of private lands within the planning area. These private lands are used primarily in support of agriculture and minerals uses. Several landowners have expressed interest in sale or trade of their lands within the planning area. Many of the private lands are accessed by BLM roads and motorized trails for which no rights-of-way have been granted across public land. Nor are there easements for public access across some private lands. The NCA Act supports the maintenance of public and private access to and across these parcels (§ 5(b)).

There are two existing utility corridors within the planning area that support power lines and a railroad right-of-way. There is also some potential demand for future utility rights-of-way to private lands.

Objectives

- To provide access to private lands, consistent with applicable laws, while minimizing environmental impacts.
- To establish utility corridors and grant rights-of-way when they are consistent with management objectives for the NCA.
- When practical and appropriate, to pursue opportunities within the planning area to acquire private parcels or interests only from willing owners who initiate the sale or exchanges processes leading to public acquisition of their lands.
- To allow development and establishment of new private interests on public lands only when consistent with the resource goals of the planning area.



*Part of historic
Camp
McGarry on
the Soldier
Meadows
Ranch*

Lands and Realty Management

LAND-1: Access to private lands entirely surrounded by Wilderness (also known as inholdings) will be allowed for the reasonable purposes for which the property is held or used. Access will be limited to the routes and modes of travel that existed at the time of designation. When vehicle access is provided, it

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will be authorized through issuance of renewable land use permits. Until issuance of a land use permit, landowners will only be allowed to use non-motorized and non-mechanical means of accessing their property.

LAND-2: Access to private lands and valid existing rights outside of Wilderness may be authorized by granting rights-of-way that provide for the reasonable use and enjoyment of private lands by their owners while minimizing impacts on resources.

LAND-3: No new utility corridors will be established in the planning area.

LAND-4: Two existing utility corridors (Map 2-10) will be retained. One corridor crosses the mile-wide “neck” in the northwest part of the NCA. This corridor is one mile wide and centers on the existing Los Angeles Water and Power electrical transmission line. The second corridor runs in an east-west direction and includes the Union Pacific Railroad line and a parallel power line. This corridor is 2.75 miles wide with the Union Pacific rail line located at its northern edge.

LAND-5: Utility rights-of-way may be granted outside of Wilderness where in conformance with visual quality objectives and the NCA Act.

LAND-6: Permanent above-ground facilities will not be allowed on the 104,546 acre playa of the Black Rock Desert.

LAND-7: BLM may acquire private lands or property interests within the planning area that will provide public benefits. Land acquisitions may occur through exchange proposed by private owners where no disposal of public land occurs within the NCA or Wilderness; through purchase from willing landowners or their agents; or through donation. Acquired lands would be subject to applicable sections of the RMP.

LAND-8: Recreation and public purposes leases and Section 302 leases will not be issued within the planning area.

LAND-9: Land use permits may be issued consistent with the guidelines for special recreation permits (see Section 2.20.2).

*Construction
of railroad
siding to the
1926
“Winning of
Barbara
Worth” movie
set*



Photo Credit *